



Rosa the Donkey



Rosa is a sweet and gentle character, she would be a perfect addition to a knitted farmyard or a nativity scene. Donkeys have been around for many years and have even been documented in Egyptian paintings. A female donkey is called a Jenny and a male is known as a Jack. (Source: Wikipedia)

Mamma4earth

This is an original design by Linda Dawkins for
Mamma4earth
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Materials

50 grams of worsted yarn in a donkey shade

4mm / US 6 knitting needles

Sewing up needle

Black yarn for the mane and tail

Merino fleece for stuffing

Two stitch markers to mark the middle of the work

Felting needle and black fleece for the eyes or a small amount of black embroidery thread or yarn for the eyes

Pattern Notes

This pattern is knitted in stocking stitch throughout; the pattern is knitted flat and in one piece. The donkey is knitted from the back legs to the head. The only extra pieces that are knitted and attached are the two ears.

Increases in the centre of the pattern are knitted with a kfb (knit into the front and back of the stitch).

When you are increasing up the back of the donkey by the stitch markers make sure you pull your work a little tighter here or you may end up with ladders in your work. The same principle applies for decreasing down the front of her face.

Increases for the legs and head areas are made with a cable cast on unless otherwise stated.

Decreasing is carried out by knitting two stitches together or using a slip, slip, knit.

Casting off for purl rows will be purl-wise and for knit rows, knit-wise.

When stitching up the donkey, I don't use any particular stitch but sew in and out of the work on the wrong side, please refer to my tutorial booklet for more details.

Gauge is not too important when knitting toy patterns but you should ensure that the knitting is tight enough so that the stuffing does not show through. Varying gauges, yarn thicknesses and needles will change the size of the donkey.

The donkey can also be knitted in a DK yarn for a smaller size using 3mm needles.

Please remember that if the donkey and the camel are going to be in a nativity scene together, they need to be knitted in the same yarns with the same needle size otherwise they will not be the same scale.

Size

Using worsted weight yarn and 4mm needles you could expect your donkey to measure:

Height (foot to top of ear): 18cm / 7"

Length (muzzle to tail): 18cm / 7"

Abbreviations and Tutorial Video Links

kfb: Knit into the front and the back of a stitch to increase a stitch.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILcTB5hc0XM>

k2tog: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBpbLmgwHFA>

ssk: Slip, slip, knit

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGwcYW3GG3M>

Cable cast on: <http://www.knittinghelp.com/video/play/cable-cast-on-english>

Pattern

Cast on 32 stitches and place stitch markers on either side of the two middle stitches.

Row 1: Knit to one stitch before the marker, kfb, slip marker, knit 2, slip marker, kfb, knit to the end of the row. (34 stitches)

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: Knit to one stitch before the marker, kfb, slip marker, knit 2, slip marker, kfb, knit to the end of the row. (36 stitches)

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: Knit to one stitch before the marker, kfb, slip marker, knit 2, slip marker, kfb, knit to the end of the row. (38 stitches)

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: Knit to one stitch before the marker, kfb, slip marker, knit 2, slip marker, kfb, knit to the end of the row. (40 stitches)

Row 8: Purl.

Row 9: Knit to one stitch before the marker, kfb, slip marker, knit 2, slip marker, kfb, knit to the end of the row. (42 stitches)

Row 10: Purl.

Row 11: Knit.

Row 12: Purl.

Row 13: Knit.

Row 14: Cast off 8 stitches at the beginning of the row, purl to the end. (34 stitches)

Row 15: Cast off 8 stitches at the beginning of the row, knit to the end. (26 stitches)

Row 16 - 26: Knit in stocking stitch.

Row 27: Kfb, knit to last stitch, kfb (28 stitches)

Row 28: Purl.

Row 29: Cast on 8 stitches at the beginning of the row, knit to the end. (36 stitches)

Row 30: Cast on 8 stitches at the beginning of the row, purl to the end. (44 stitches)

Row 31: Knit to one stitch before the marker, kfb, slip marker, knit 2, slip marker, kfb, knit to the end of the row. (46 stitches)

Row 32: Purl row.

Row 33: Knit to one stitch before the marker, kfb, slip marker, knit 2, slip marker, kfb, knit to the end of the row. (48 stitches)

Row 34: Purl row.

Row 35: Knit to one stitch before the marker, kfb, slip marker, knit 2, slip marker, kfb, knit to the end of the row. (50 stitches)

Row 36: Purl.

Row 37: Knit to one stitch before the marker, kfb, slip marker, knit 2, slip marker, kfb, knit to the end of the row. (52 stitches)

Row 38: Purl.

Row 39: Knit to one stitch before the marker, kfb, slip marker, knit 2, slip marker, kfb, knit to the end of the row. (54 stitches)

Row 40: Purl.

Row 41: Knit to one stitch before the marker, kfb, slip marker, knit 2, slip marker, kfb, knit to the end of the row. (56 stitches)

Row 42: Cast off 16 stitches, purl to the end of the row. (40 stitches)

Row 43: Cast off 16 stitches, knit to the end of the row. (24 stitches)

Row 44: Cast off 4 stitches, purl to the end of the row. (20 stitches)

Row 45: Cast off 4 stitches, knit to one stitch before the marker, kfb, slip marker, knit 2, slip marker, kfb, knit to the end of the row. (18 stitches)

Row 46: Purl row. (18 stitches)

Row 47: Knit to one stitch before the marker, kfb, slip marker, knit 2, slip marker, kfb, knit to the end of the row. (20 stitches)

Row 48: Purl.

Row 49: Cast on 2 stitches, knit to the end of the row. (22 stitches)

Row 50: Cast on 2 stitches, purl to the end of the row. (24 stitches)

Row 51: Cast on 2 stitches, knit to the end of the row. (26 stitches)

Row 52: Cast on 2 stitches, purl to the end of the row. (28 stitches)

Row 53: Knit.

Row 54: Purl.

Row 55: Knit.

Row 56: Purl.

Row 57: Knit to two stitches before marker, k2tog, slip marker, knit 2, slip marker, ssk, knit to the end of the row. (26 stitches)

Cast off purl wise. Break the yarn leaving a metre long tail; you will use this to sew up the donkey.

Finishing the donkey

Fold the knitting right sides together and line up the legs, head, tummy etc. Sew and stuff the knitted donkey.



Use the tutorial "Shaping and stuffing a Waldorf Inspired Knitted Toy Animal" as a guide to sewing and stuffing your knitted donkey.

Ears

Knit 2

Cast on 4 stitches

Knit 15 rows in garter stitch

k2tog, knit 2 (3 stitches)

k2tog, knit 1 (2 stitches)

k2tog (1 stitch)

Cast off

Ear Placement

Sew on the ears on either side of the head. The yellow pin shows their placement.



Sew in and out of the head and ear along the base of the ear and a little above that and then finish off.



Mane

Thread the sewing needle with a long strand of black yarn and sew through the top of the neck leaving a short strand for the mane.

Pull tight to lock the stitch and trim the yarn, the black mane should stand just over half an inch high.

Continue down the length of the neck.



Sew over, in and out another two times to lock the stitch.

Tail

Cut 3 strands of black yarn about 8" / 20cm long and pull them through the back of the donkey as shown in the photo. There must be equal amounts of yarn either side.



Braid the yarn by holding three pairs of yarn with two strands in each pair. Braid until the top of the donkey's back leg, then tie off and trim.

Eyes

Needle felt the eyes on with a felting needle and some black fleece.



Alternatively you can sew the eyes on using back embroidery thread or yarn and a tapestry needle.

Please Note

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